GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2382
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FARMERS
Bhagora Shri Mahavir

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provisions of Agriculture Income Insurance Scheme and Social Security Scheme which have been formulated in the interest of the farmers;

(b) the main recommendations of the National Commission for Farmers;

(c) the amount to be released for agricultural schemes;

(d) the details of targets fixed under the said schemes and achievements made in this regard during the last three years and the current year State-wise;

(e) whether a provision has been made to provide special facilities to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the said schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) : A Farm Income Insurance Scheme (FIIS) which provides income protection to the farmers by integrating the mechanism of insuring production and market risks was implemented on pilot basis in rabi 2003-04 and kharif 2004 seasons. But it was discontinued with effect from rabi 2004-05 season.

To provide social security to workers in the unorganised sector, the Ministry of Labour and Employment have introduced in Parliament the Unorganised Sector Worker's Social Security Bill, 2007. Apart from this, the Government has already implemented National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) which aims to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households. Besides, there are schemes like Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana; Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana and National Old age Pension Scheme which provide social security.

(b): Main recommendations of the National Commission of Farmers (NCF) include, inter-alia, asset reforms including skill development to empower the farmers; support services like agricultural bio-security, agro-meteorology; inputs and services like distribution of good quality seeds, disease-free planting material and soil-health passbooks containing integrated information on farm soil to improve soil health with corresponding advisories to the farmers; credit and insurance; support services for women like provision of creches, childcare centres and adequate nutrition; revamping extension, training and knowledge connectivity; comprehensive social security scheme for farmers; improving marketing opportunities for farmers through better infrastructure and effective implementation of Minimum Support Price and harnessing science and technology for giving a boost to agriculture etc.

(c): The amount to be released for agricultural schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for the year 2008-09 is Rs. 9800.00 crores.

(d): Most of the schemes are demand driven and provides support services, therefore, physical targets for the schemes are generally not fixed. However, financial target for the last three years and the expenditure incurred are given as under :-

Particulars	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Financial Targets	4900.00	6297.94	9800.00
Expenditure	4679.87	7058.50	4849.67

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(October
2008)

(e) & (f): Yes Sir. As per norms prescribed by the Planning Commission, 16% of Plan allocations are required to be earmarked for Scheduled Cast Sub-Plan (SCSP) and 8% under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP).